

The State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education held a work session on Thursday, July 16, 2015 in Cabinet Room of the Townsend Building, Dover, Delaware. The session began at 9:40 a.m.

Present were: Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge Melendez, Vice President; Nina Lou Bunting, Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., G. Patrick Heffernan, Dr. Terry M. Whittaker and Donna R. Johnson, who serves as the State Board's Executive Director.

Also in attendance were Ilona Kirshon, Deputy Attorney General and counsel for the State Board; Rachel Chan, Rodel Foundation; Michelle Wilson, Capital School District; Melissa Tracy, Red Clay Consolidated School District; Tim Brewer, New Castle County Vo-Tech; Madeline Bayard, Rodel Foundation; Theresa Bennett, Department of Education; and Randy Reynolds, Cape Henlopen School District.

Rodel Teacher Council Presentation on Personalized Learning and  
Competency Based Learning Guiding Coalition Policy Recommendations

Michelle Wilson, Melissa Tracy, and Tim Brewer are members of the Rodel Teacher Council, and provided personal experiences in their classrooms on personalized learning and the results of their policy study with the Council. Personalized learning is tailored instructor to a student's specific academic needs and learning style that allows students to work at their own pace. Personalized learning also empowers teachers to concentrate on students' individual needs and technology is used in innovative ways to support student learning. The presentation also provided the State Board with challenges and barriers that need to be addressed like more flexibility with personalized learning models and professional development for teachers on these learning models. And a major challenge is the disparities in access to technology and network speeds in Delaware schools.

Theresa Bennett, the Department's English Language Arts Education Associate, presented to the State Board the recommendations of Competency-Based Learning Guiding Coalition. The state can support cross-state collaboration for competency-based learning and she highlighted some of the support the Department is provided as a result of the Gap Analysis to a standards-based reporting/grading cohort and courses on eLearning.

The work session adjourned at 12:20 p.m.